

MET

cold into a solid body such as it was before, which is malleable under the hammer, and is of a bright, glossy, and glittering substance where newly cut or broken. The metals are six in number: 1. gold; 2. silver; 3. copper; 4. tin; 5. iron; and, 6. lead; of which gold is the heaviest, lead the second in weight, then silver, then copper, and iron is the lightest except tin: some have added mercury or quicksilver to the number of metals; but as it wants malleability, the criterion of metals, it is more properly ranked among the semi metals.

Metallists use a kind of terrace in their vessels for fining metals, that the melted metal run not out. *Moxon.*

2. Courage; spirit. In this sense it is more frequently written *mettle*. See *METTLER*.

Being glad to find their companions had so much metal, after a long debate the major part carried it. *Clarendon.*

3. Upon this signification the following ambiguity is founded.

Both kinds of metal he prepar'd,
Either to give blows or to ward;
Courage and steel both of great force,
Prepar'd for better or for worse. *Hadibras, p. i.*

METALLESIS. *n. f.* [*μεταλλήσις*, Fr. *metallique*, French.] A continuation of a trope in one word through a succession of significations. *Bailey.*

METALLICAL. *adj.* [from *metallum*, Lat. *metallique*, French.]

METALLICK. *adj.* Partaking of metal; containing metal; consisting of metal.

The ancients observing in that material a kind of metallal nature, or fusibility, seem to have resolved it to nobler use; an art now utterly lost. *Watson's Architecture.*

The lofty lines abound with endless store
Of mineral treasure, and metallal oar. *Blackmore.*

METALLIFEROUS. *adj.* [*metallum* and *fero*, Latin.] Producing metals. *Dict.*

METALLINE. *adj.* [from *metallum*.]

1. Impregnated with metal.

Metalline waters have virtual cold in them; put therefore wood or clay into smith's water, and try whether it will not harden. *Bacon's Nat. Hist. N^o. 84.*

2. Consisting of metal.

Though the quicksilver were brought to a very close and lovely metalline cylinder, not interrupted by interperfed bubbles, yet having caused the air to be again drawn out of the receiver, several little bubbles disclosed themselves. *Boyle.*

METALLIST. *n. f.* [from *metallum*; *metalliste*, Fr.] A worker in metals; or skilled in metals.

Metallists use a kind of terrace in their vessels for fining metals, that the melted metal run not out; it is made of quick lime and ox blood. *Moxon's Mech. Exercit.*

METALLOGRAPHY. *n. f.* [*metallum* and *γραφω*, Fr.] An account or description of metals. *Dict.*

METALLURGIST. *n. f.* [*metallum* and *εργον*, Fr.] A worker in metals.

METALLURGY. *n. f.* [*metallum* and *εργον*, Fr.] The art of working metals, or separating them from their ore.

TO METAMORPHOSE. *v. a.* [*metamorphose*, Fr. *μεταμορφωσις*.] To change the form or shape of any thing.

Thou, Julia, thou hast metamorphos'd me;
Made me neglect my studies, lose my time. *Shakespeare.*

They became degenerate and metamorphos'd like Nebuchadnezzar, who, though he had the face of a man, had the heart of a beast. *Davies on Ireland.*

The impossibility to conceive so great a prince and favourite so suddenly metamorphos'd into travellers, with no greater train, was enough to make any man unbelieve his five senses. *Watson's Buckingham.*

From such rude principles our form began;
And earth was metamorphos'd into man. *Dryden's Ovid.*

METAMORPHOSIS. *n. f.* [*metamorphose*, Fr. *μεταμορφωσις*.]

1. Transformation; change of shape.

His whole oration stood upon a short narration, what was the cause of this metamorphosis. *Sidney.*

Obscene talk is grown so common, that one would think we were fallen into an age of metamorphosis, and that the brutes did not only poetically but really speak. *Gov. Tongue.*

The fifteenth book is the master-piece of the whole metamorphosis. *Dryden.*

What! my noble colonel in metamorphosis! On what occasion are you transformed? *Dryden's Spanish Fryar.*

There are probable machines in epick poems, where the gods are no less actors than the men; but the less credible sort, such as metamorphoses, are far more rare. *Pope's Odyssey.*

2. It is applied, by *Harvey*, to the changes an animal undergoes, both in its formation and growth; and by several of the various shapes some insects in particular pass through, as the silk-worm, and the like.

METAPHOR. *n. f.* [*metaphore*, Fr. *μεταφορα*.] The application of a word to an use to which, in its original import, it cannot be put: as, he *bridles* his anger; he *deadens* the sound; the spring *awakes* the flowers. A metaphor is a simile comprized in a word; the spring putting in action the powers of vegetation, which were torpid in the winter, as the powers of a sleeping animal are excited by awaking him.

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The work of tragedy is on the passions, and in a dialogue; both of them abhor strong metaphors, in which the epocæa delights. *Dryden's Ded. to Virgil's Æneis.*

METAPHORICAL. *adj.* [*metaphorique*, Fr. from *metaphor*.]

METAPHORICK. *adj.* Not literal; not according to the primitive meaning of the word; figurative.

The words which were do continue; the only difference is, that whereas before they had a literal, they now have a metaphorical use. *Hooker.*

METAPHORASE. *n. f.* [*μεταφορασις*.] A mere verbal translation from one language into another.

This translation is not so loose as paraphrase, nor so close as *metaphrase*.

METAPHRAST. *n. f.* [*metaphrastes*, Fr. *μεταφραστης*.] A literal translator; one who translates word for word from one language into another.

METAPHYSICAL. *adj.*

1. Verbed in metaphysics; relating to metaphysics.

2. In *Shakespeare* it means supernatural or preternatural.

He thee higher,
To chaffice with the valour of my tongue
All that impedes thee from the golden round,
Which fate, and metaphysical aid, doth seem
To have crown'd thee withal. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*

METAPHYSICK. *n. f.* [*metaphysique*, Fr. *μεταφυσικη*.] On-METAPHYSICKS. *s.* tology; the doctrine of the general affections of substances existing.

The mathematics and the metaphysics,
Fall to them as you find your stomach serves you. *Shakespeare.*

Call her the metaphysics of her sex,
And say the tortures wits, as quartsans vex
Physicians. *Cleopatra.*

If fight be caused by intromission, or receiving in, the form of contrary species should be received confusedly together, which how absurd it is, Aristotle shews in his metaphysics. *Peacham on Drawing.*

See physick beg the Stagyrite's defence!
See metaphysick call for aid on sense! *Pope's Dunciad.*

The topics of ontology or metaphysick, are cause, effect, action, passion, identity, opposition, subject, adjunct, and sign. *Watts's Logic.*

METAPHYSIS. *n. f.* [*μεταφυσικη*.] Transformation; metamorphosis. *Dict.*

METAPLASM. *n. f.* [*μεταπλασμα*.] A figure in rhetoric, wherein words or letters are transposed contrary to their natural order. *Dict.*

METASTASIS. *n. f.* [*μεταστασις*.] Translation or removal.

His disease was a dangerous asthma; the cause a metastasis, or translation of tartarous humours from his joints to his lungs. *Harvey on Consumption.*

METATARSAL. *adj.* [from *metatarsus*.] Belonging to the metatarsus.

The bones of the toes, and part only of the metatarsal bones, may be carious; in which case cut off only so much of the foot as is disordered. *Sharp's Surgery.*

METATARSUS. *n. f.* [*μεταταρσος*.] The middle of the foot, which is composed of five small bones connected to those of the first part of the foot. *Dict.*

The conjunction is called synarthrosis, as in the joining the tarsus to the metatarsus. *Wijeman's Surgery.*

METATHESIS. *n. f.* [*μεταθεσις*.] A transposition.

TO METE. *v. a.* [*meteo*, Latin.] To measure; to reduce to measure.

I will divide Shechem, and mete the valley of Succoth. *Psal.*

To measure any distance by a line, apply some known measure wherewith to mete it. *Holder.*

Though you many ways pursue
To find their length, you'll never mete the true,
But thus; take all that space the sun
Mets out, when every daily round is run. *Creech.*

METEWAND. *n. f.* [*mete* and *wand*.] A staff of a certain length wherewith measures are taken.

METRYARD. *s.* tain length wherewith measures are taken.

A true touchstone, a sure meteward lieth before their eyes. *Ascham's Schoolmaster.*

Ye shall do no unrighteousness in meteward, weight, or measure. *Lev. xix. 35.*

TO METEMPSYCHOSE. *v. a.* [from *metempsychosis*.] To translate from body to body. A word not received.

The souls of usurers after their death, Lucian affirms to be metempsychos'd, or translated into the bodies of asses, and there remain certain years, for poor men to take their pennyworth out of their bones. *Peacham on Blazoning.*

METEMPSYCHOSIS. *n. f.* [*μετεμψυχωσις*.] The transmigration of souls from body to body.

From the opinion of metempsychosis, or transmigration of the souls of men into the bodies of beasts, most suitable unto their human condition, after his death Orpheus the musician became a swan. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iii.*

METEOR. *n. f.* [*meteora*, Fr. *μετεωρα*.] Any bodies in the air or sky that are of a flux and transitory nature. *Locke*

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Look'd he or red, or pale, or sad, or merrily?
What observation mad'st thou in this case? *Shakespeare.*

Of his heart's meteors tilting in his face?

She began to cast with herself from what coast this blazing star had life upon the horizon of Ireland; for there had the like meteor strong influence before. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

These burning fits but meteors be,
Whole matter in thee soon is spent:
Thy beauty, and all parts which are in thee,
Are an unchangeable firmament. *Dante.*

Then flaming meteor, hung in air, were seen,
And thunders rattled through a sky serene. *Dryden's Æn.*

Why was I rais'd the meteor of the world,
Hung in the skies, and blazing as I travell'd,
Till all my fires were spent; and then cast downward
To be trod out by Cæsar? *Dryden's All for Love.*

O poet, thou hadst been discreeter,
Hanging the monarch's hat so high,
If thou hadst dubb'd thy star a meteor,
Which did but blaze, and rove, and die. *Prior.*

METEOROLOGICAL. *adj.* [from *meteorology*.] Relating to the doctrine of meteors.

Many others are considerable in meteorological divinity. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. vii.*

Make disquisition whether these unusual lights be new-come guests, or old inhabitants in heaven, or meteorological impressions not transcending the upper region, or whether to be ranked among celestial bodies. *Howell's Vocal Forest.*

METEOROLOGIST. *n. f.* [from *meteorology*.] A man skilled in meteors, or studious of them.

The meteorologist observe, that amongst the four elements which are the ingredients of all sublunary creatures, there is a notable correspondency. *Howell's Vocal Forest.*

METEORLOGY. *n. f.* [*μετεωρολογια* and *λογια*.] The doctrine of meteors.

In animals we deny not a natural meteorology, or innate presentation of wind and weather. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

METEOROUS. *adj.* [from *meteor*.] Having the nature of a meteor.

From the o'er hill
To their fixt station, all in bright array,
The cherubim descended, on the ground
Gliding meteorous, as ev'ning mists,
Ris'n from a river. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xii.*

METER. *n. f.* [from *metre*.] A measurer: as, a coal-meter, a land-meter.

METHEGLIN. *n. f.* [*meddyglyn*, Welsh, from *medd* and *glyn*, glutinare ait Minshew, vel a meddy medicus & llyn potus quia potus medicinalis.] Drink made of honey boiled with water and fermented.

White handed mistress, one sweet word with thee.
—Honey, milk, and sugar, there is three.
—Nay then two treys; and if you grow so nice,
Methinks, wort, and malmsey. *Shakespeare.*

T' allay the strength and hardness of the wine,
And with old Bacchus new metheglin join. *Dryden.*

METHINKS, verb impersonal. [*me* and *thinks*.] This is imagined to be a Norman corruption, the French being apt to confound *me* and *I*. I think; it seems to me; methinks. See *MESSEMS*, which is more strictly grammatical, though less in use. *Methinks* was used even by those who used likewise *methinks*.

In all ages poets have been had in special reputation, and, methinks, not without great cause; for, besides their sweet inventions, and most witty lays, they have always used to set forth the praises of the good and virtuous. *Spenser on Ireland.*

If he choose out some expression which does not vitiate the sense, I suppose he may stretch his chain to such a latitude; but by innovation of thoughts, methinks, he breaks it. *Dryden.*

There is another circumstance, which, methinks, gives us a very high idea of the nature of the soul, in regard to what passes in dreams, that innumerable multitude and variety of ideas which then arise in her. *Addison's Spect. N^o. 487.*

Methinks already I your tears survey. *Pope.*

METHOD. *n. f.* [*methode*, Fr. *methode*.]

Method, taken in the largest sense, implies the placing of several things, or performing several operations in such an order as is most convenient to attain some end. *Watts.*

To see wherein the harm which they feel consisteth, the seeds from which it sprang, and the method of curing it, belongeth to a skill the study whereof is full of toil, and the practice beset with difficulties. *Hooker, b. v.*

If you will jest with me know my aspect,
And fashion your demeanour to my looks,
Or I will beat this method in your conscience. *Shakespeare.*

It will be in vain to talk to you concerning the method I think best to be observed in schools. *Locke on Education.*

Notwithstanding a faculty be born with us, there are several methods for cultivating and improving it, and without which it will be very uncertain. *Addison's Spect. N^o. 409.*

METHODICAL. *adj.* [*methodique*, Fr. from *method*.] Ranged or proceeding in due or just order.

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The observations follow one another without that methodical regularity requisite in a prose author. *Addison's Spect.*

He can take a body to pieces, and dispose of them where he pleases; to us, perhaps, not without the appearance of irretrievable confusion; but, with respect to his own knowledge, into the most regular and methodical repositories. *Rogers.*

Let me appear, great Sir, I pray,
Methodical in what I say. *Addison's Resamon.*

METHODICALLY. *adv.* [from *methodical*.] According to method and order.

All the rules of painting are methodically, concisely, and clearly delivered in this treatise. *Dryden's Dufresnoy.*

To begin methodically, I should enjoin you travel; for absence doth remove the cause, removing the object. *Suckling.*

TO METHODISE. *v. a.* [from *method*.] To regulate; to dispose in order.

Resolv'd his unripe vengeance to defer,
The royal spy retir'd unseen,
To brood in secret on his gather'd spleen,
And methodize revenge. *Dryden's Boccaccio.*

The man who does not know how to methodize his thoughts, has always a barren superfluity of words; the fruit is lost amidst the exuberance of leaves. *Speator, N^o. 476.*

One who brings with him any observations which he has made in his reading of the poets, will find his own reflections methodized and explained, in the works of a good critic. *Addison's Spect. N^o. 291.*

Those rules of old discover'd, not devis'd,
Are nature still, but nature methodis'd. *Pope.*

METHONIST. *n. f.* [from *method*.]

1. A physician who practices by theory.

Our warriest physicians, not only chemists but methodists, give it inwardly in several constitutions and distempers. *Boyle.*

2. One of a new kind of puritans lately arisen, so called from their profession to live by rules and in constant method.

METHOUGHT, the preterite of *methinks*. See *METHINKS* and *MESSEMS*. I thought; it appeared to me. I know not that any author has *methought*, though it is more grammatical, and deduced analogically from *methinks*.

Methought, a serpent eat my heart away,
And you sat smiling at his cruel prey. *Shakespeare.*

Since I fought
By pray'r th' offended deity t' appease;
Kneel'd, and before him humbly'd all my heart.
Methought, I saw him placable, and mild,
Bending his ear: persuasion in me grew
That I was heard with favour; peace return'd
Home to my breast; and to my memory
His promise, "That thy feed shall bruise our foe." *Milt.*

In these
I found not what, methought, I wanted still. *Milton.*

Methought I stood on a wide river's bank,
Which I must needs o'erpass, but knew not how. *Dryden.*

METONYMICAL. *adj.* [from *metonymy*.] Put by metonymy for something else.

METONYMICALLY. *adv.* [from *metonymical*.] By metonymy; not literally.

The disposition of the coloured body, as that modifies the light, may be called by the name of a colour metonymically, or efficiently; that is, in regard of its turning the light that rebounds from it, or passes through it, into this or that particular colour. *Boyle on Colours.*

METONYMY. *n. f.* [*metonymie*, Fr. *μετανομια*.] A rhetorical figure, by which one word is put for another, as the matter for the materiate; *he died by steel*, that is, by a sword. They differ only as cause and effect, which by a metonymy usual in all sorts of authors, are frequently put one for another. *Tillotson.*

METOPOSCOPY. *n. f.* [*metoposcopia*, Fr. *μετοσκοπια* and *σκοπια*.] The study of physiognomy; the art of knowing the characters of men by the countenance.

METRE. *n. f.* [*metrum*, Latin; *μετρον*.] Speech confined to a certain number and harmonick disposition of syllables; verse; measure; numbers.

For the metre sake, some words be driven awry which require a straighter placing in plain prose. *Ascham's Schoolmaster.*

He taught his Romans in much better metre,
To laugh at fools. *Pope.*

METRICAL. *adj.* [*metricus*, Latin; *metrique*, Fr.] Pertaining to metre or numbers.

METROPOLIS. *n. f.* [*metropolis*, Latin; *μετροπολις*, French; *μητρο* and *πολις*.] The mother city; the chief city of any country or district.

His eye discovers unaware
The goodly prospect of some foreign land,
First seen: or some renown'd metropolis,
With glittering spires and pinnacles adorn'd. *Milton.*

Reduc'd in careful watch
Round their metropolis. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. x.*

We stopped at Pavia, that was once the metropolis of a kingdom, but at present a poor town. *Addison on Italy.*

METROPOLITAN.